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# **TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA**

## **TOWN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Jarvis Hall  
4505 Ocean Drive  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010  
9:00 P.M.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roseann Minnet called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m. Present were Commissioner Jim Silverstone, Commissioner Stuart Dodd and Commissioner Birute Ann Clotley. Also present were Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Assistant Town Manager Olinzock and Town Clerk June White.

Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee was absent.

### **2. DISCUSSION ITEM**

#### **a. El Mar Drive Streetscape Project and Stimulus Funding**

Commissioner Clotley explained that she called the special meeting because she discovered that Federal stimulus money, up to \$100,000 was available for shovel ready projects that would create new jobs and the El Mar Drive Project met the federal criteria, which was channeled through the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization). She explained further that the idea was to get people out of their cars, to walk and to ride the rail. Commissioner Clotley further explained that should the Commission go along with what the MPSC suggested, there was a 90 day window to change the plans. She added that most of the other cities did not have the matching funds that were required, but the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea did. Commissioner Clotley believed that with the \$1 million from Oriana the Town could end up with \$2 million and would be able to finish all of El Mar Drive.

Joe Couriel suggested borrowing approximately \$750,000 as that would complete the project.

Yann Brandt believed the sidewalks should be removed.

Bill Vitollo believed that voting in favor of pursuing the grant was a great idea as long as the Town Attorney agreed that the Town could pull out at any time without cost.

Barbara Cole was confused how job creation fit in with restaurant and hotels.

Commissioner Clotley explained that the government wanted to put people back to work and to keep them working. Mayor Minnet explained further that with the beautification of El Mar Drive more people would want to come to Town and new jobs would be created in hotels and in the hospitality district.

Paul Novak believed the Commission should pursue the grant. Commissioner Silverstone asked what the reduction would be if the sidewalks were excluded. Raul Ocampo said that they would have to replace the sidewalks with landscaping, irrigation and lighting and would need to eliminate the sculptures. He thought the cost would be lower as there would be no sidewalks, the lighting level would be lower and concrete would not be used. Commissioner Silverstone asked whether \$3 million would suffice to complete the project instead of \$3.5 million.

Commissioner Dodd asked whether the Town would be liable for the architectural fees should the Town not get approval for the money. Mr. Ocampo said any work that they had to do in contrary to what they had already done there would be an additional cost. Commissioner Dodd asked that if the Town put in for a full set of plans and did not get the grant money would the Town still have to pay the percentage for the plans. Mr. Ocampo said yes. Commissioner Clottey asked what the additional cost would be. Mr. Ocampo stated that the increment was only for the \$1 million grant. If the project was expanded there would be an additional fee but he did not know what that cost would be.

Mayor Minnet asked how much Ocampo & Associates was paid so far. Mr. Ocampo believed they received approximately \$56,000.

Mayor Minnet asked whether Mr. Ocampo ever worked on grant applications before. He said he did not do the grant writing. Mayor Minnet asked what the cost would be to redo the drainage on El Mar Drive. Mr. Ocampo said that whatever they do with the median had nothing to do with the drainage. Mayor Minnet asked if the \$3.5 million included the drainage. Mr. Ocampo said if they were to redo the drainage it would be up around \$5 million.

Mayor Minnet asked whether the Town had ever worked on Federal projects. Assistant Town Manager said that he had worked on federal projects before.

Diane Boutin asked the Commission to consider erosion, salt, water restrictions, and safety issues. She stated that the Town had Portals, and a proposed underwater park, that if enhancement in lighting to attract the people to the portals would be beneficial.

Barbara Cole stated that the people were looking for as much green as possible. She agreed with Ms. Boutin regarding the Portals. Ms. Cole asked the Commission to listen to the people.

Bill Vitollo asked whether the \$2 million grant was to include the north end of Town along El Mar Drive.

Mr. Ocampo explained that he presented drawings for the South end of Town and, depending on how the grant was written, and to be fairly sure as to how much grant money there was they only had a 90 day window to fine tune the drawings.

Former Commissioner Dave Wessels believed El Mar Drive was priced out at \$6 million in 2006. He said he would apply for the grant, do it all at one time including the drainage to avoid paying for it twice. Commissioner Wessels believed the Town should borrow the money if necessary.

Assistant Town Manager Olinzock stated that the Town was notified in January that the House of Representatives approved the Infrastructure and Job Investment Bill and was before the Senate. He added that the Bill included \$37.3 billion for transportation and infrastructure funding with the highway portion at \$27.5 billion of which Florida would receive approximately \$1.3 billion. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock stated that the Broward MPO Highway share could be between \$45 million to \$110 million. He added that in January the MPO asked for shovel ready projects, at which time the Town had none to submit. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock explained that recently Commissioner Clotey attended the MPO meeting where she learned the door was still open and through discussion, discovered that the El Mar Drive Streetscape project could be eligible as a shovel ready project. He stated that the Town was going to spend \$1 million on the project and was looking to see, if eligible for the grant, if the money would be matched. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock stated that everyone had to be on the same page in order for this to happen. He said that if the Commission authorized Administration to apply for the grant and they were approved, the Town had 90 days to have the project shovel ready.

Commissioner Silverstone thanked Commissioner Clotey for discovering that this window was still open. He asked whether the drainage would have to be redone since the drainage issue was alongside the sidewalk. Mr. Ocampo said no.

Diane Boutin asked for a brief highlight of the plans and asked whether it was feasible.

Yann Brandt thanked Assistant Town Manager for explaining this was part of a Jobs Bill that may not go through and asked whether the Town should put everything on hold until the Jobs Bill was passed.

Mr. Ocampo said the original plan that he was contracted to do was Option #1 which had sidewalks in the median and doggie stations with areas for benches and gazebos. He added that last week the Commission asked them to stop and redraw the plans without the sidewalks in the median and replace the sidewalks with landscaping, irrigation and some type of crosswalks to get from one side of El Mar Drive to the other going east to west, and to reduce the lighting to accent lighting.

Marjorie Evans said there was a tremendous opportunity to get \$1 million dollars and believed the Town should go for it and work out the details later. Assistant Town Manager explained further that the MPO wanted to be prepared that should the Bill pass they would be ready to go forward. Commissioner Clotey said the MPO would vote

and prioritize very soon, and if the Town was not ready the Town would be out of the picture.

Chris Vincent asked why not go for a matching grant of \$1.5 million to complete the project. Commissioner Silverstone stated that it would cost a lot more. Mayor Minnet agreed. Mr. Ocampo believed that in a grant application, the work to be done could be applied for in phases.

Mayor Minnet asked that if the Town budgeted for the grant would they be able to add matching funds. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock said that was something the Town Manager and the Commission would have to look at.

Marjorie Evans asked to look at the grant. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock said that if he had the grant application it would have been distributed. Mayor Minnet wanted to see the grant prior to voting on it. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock said he had done some research and received a note from the MPO that stated that they were closing the list for interested parties, Friday, February 19, 2010. He said if the Town did not sign the agreement the MPO would remove them from the list.

Edmund Malkoon asked whether the Town could back out without a penalty. Mayor Minnet said they could.

Commissioner Clotey said the Town had problems getting money because they did not have a shovel ready project. She added that even if the Town did not get this money at least they had something on the shelf to work with.

Commissioner Dodd asked if the Town could morally submit a set of plans that probably bear some similarity with what the Town plans to design and build, in hope of getting matching funds. He said he was in favor of getting funds provided there were no strings, but was reluctant to apply for something he had not seen. He believed the back out parking area (swale area) was a problem and believed increasing greenery there would be an improvement. Commissioner Dodd believed they should go forward as long as they could back out without strings.

Commissioner Dodd made a motion to go forward. Mayor Minnet wanted to make sure there were no sidewalks. It was agreed.

Assistant Town Manager Olinzock wanted clarification from the Commission that they understood that the Town was only submitting a dollar amount, the name of the project and what the project was all about. He added they were not submitting plans, and that once the Town was approved, the Town had 90 days to submit the drawings.

Commissioner Silverstone explained that making a motion on this that everything would be on hold until information was received regarding the grant.

Attorney Trevarthen suggested that Assistant Town Manager Olinzock summarize so that the minutes would be accurate and everyone would know what it was. Assistant Town Manager Olinzock said that Administration was asking the Commission to authorize Administration to submit a grant application in the amount of \$2 million for the El Mar Drive Streetscape Project of which the Town would match 50% and/or \$1 million and if successful in achieving the grant, that a shovel ready project would be ready in 90 days from then. He added that, similar to the ARRA funding, projects must meet all Federal guidelines.

Commissioner Silverstone seconded the motion.

Mayor Minnet asked who was going to decide on the plans; the Master Plan Steering Committee or the Commission. Commissioner Clotey believed the Master Plan Steering Committee was given several months to come up with something and therefore, they should be allowed to continue that process. Mayor Minnet said that should be part of the motion making Mr. Novak in charge of those plans to make sure they were shovel ready and then presented to the Commission.

Mayor Minnet clarified that the motion was to move forward with the grant for \$2 million with \$1 million being Town matched funds.

Commissioner Silverstone called a Point of Order and suggested that Commissioner Clotey should be the one to make the motion since it was her idea.

Commissioner Clotey made the motion as stated. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion. Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

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Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk, June White

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Date